

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02789 141610Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /065 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8885
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BL, CI
SUBJ: BANZER'S REQUEST FOR "US HELP IN RESTORING NORMALCY ALONG
BOLIVIA/CHILE BORDER"

REF: LA PAZ 2982

1. AMBASSADOR BOEKER IS CORRECT IN INFORMING PRESIDENT
BANZER (PARA 4 REFTTEL) THAT THE GOC IS REACTING CALMLY
TO BOLIVIA'S BREAKING OFF RELATIONS AND THAT BANZER NEED
NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT CHILEAN PROVOCATIONS. GIVEN THE
GOC'S TROUBLES WITH ARGENTINA OVER THE BEAGLE, STANDING
TENSIONS WITH PERU, THE UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE
LETELIER CASE AND CHILE'S GENERAL ISOLATION, IT IS VERY
CLEAR THAT THIS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH TO ADD TO ITS
BURDENS BY AGGRAVATING BOLIVIA.

2. DCM BOYATT HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO NORTHERN
CHILE AND REPORTS THAT THE GOC'S LOCAL COMMANDERS IN THE
AREA -- PARTICULARLY IN ANTOFAGASTA AND ARICA -- ARE NOT
SPOILING FOR TROUBLE, INEVITABLY THE
TENSIONS WILL RESULT IN A CAPTAIN HERE AND A
SERGEANT THERE MAKING A GESTURE AGAINST THE OTHER SIDE.
THIS KNIFE CUTS BOTH WAYS AND LOCAL GOC OFFICIALS
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COMPLAINED ABOUT HARRASSMENT BY BOLIVIAN BORDER AU-
THORITIES. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE LOCAL COMMANDERS
APPRECIATE THE GOC'S ISOLATION; WE CAN ANTICIPATE
THAT THEY WILL PREVENT CHILEAN TROOPS FROM INDULGING
IN SERIOUS PROVOCATIONS.

3. IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO BANZER WITHOUT MAKING

A MOUNTAIN OUT OF WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A MOLEHILL,
I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT AMBASSADOR BOEKER INFORM BANZER
THAT WHILE USG WILL MAKE NO OFFICIAL OR FORMAL REPRESENTA-
TIONS REGARDING NORMALCY ALONG GOC/GOB BORDER, THE EMBASSY
HERE WILL CONTINUE INFORMALLY AND AS THE OCCASION ARISES
TO COUNSEL CHILEAN CONTACTS AT ALL LEVELS TO AVOID PROVOCA-
TION IN THE AREA.
LANDAU

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Message Attributes

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